



# UPDATE:

## Virginia Board for Geology



**ASBOG MEETINGS:** Governor Warner has issued Executive Order No. 6 which directed all state agencies and boards to actively recruit national and regional conferences to Virginia. (You can read Executive Order No. 6 by going to the following address: [http://www.governor.state.va.us/Press\\_Policy/Executive\\_Orders/html/EO\\_06.html](http://www.governor.state.va.us/Press_Policy/Executive_Orders/html/EO_06.html)).

In response to the Executive Order, the Board for Geology has contacted the National Association of State Boards of Geology (ASBOG) and asked them to consider Virginia as the host state for a council of examiners workshop in 2005 and for an annual meeting in 2007.

The Board will keep you abreast about its attempts to bring some ASBOG meetings into the Commonwealth.

**EPA PROMULGATION:** The United States Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) proposed a rule under the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA) to name only Registered Professional Engineers (PEs) and Certified Hazardous Materials Managers (CHMMs) as being authorized to deal with:

- \* Reporting requirements for hazardous waste generators and for treatment, storage and disposal facilities;
- \* Reduction in frequency of hazardous waste tank inspections;
- \* Personnel training requirements and elimination of overlap with OSHA training requirements;
- \* Streamlining of Land Disposal Restrictions' paperwork requirements, boilers and furnace records, general facility standards and groundwater requirements;
- \* Elimination of the requirements for treatability study reports; and
- \* Consolidation of facility contingency plans.

As a result of the responses from various geology boards, many individuals, and some professional organizations, the EPA **withdrew** the proposed change. The Board will monitor the EPA to see if this proposed rule is brought back up in the future.

**SURVEY:** In 2000, the Virginia Board for Geology submitted a survey to all certified geologists which asked them questions about the profession and the Board. It has taken awhile, but the results of the survey are ready and will be made available to the public at the Board's website.

To access the survey results, go to <http://www.state.va.us/dpor/indexie.html>. Once there, click on "Boards & Regulations" in the left column. A list of occupations will appear below. Scroll down and click on "Geology." The right column will now become the Board for Geology's website. To find the results from the survey, simply scroll down the right column and click on "2000 Survey Results."

**RECIPROCITY:** Please be aware that the Board currently does not have any reciprocity agreements with any other state. The Board will review each application for certification by reciprocity based on a license or certificate issued by another jurisdiction on a case by case basis.

For more information about how a person who holds a license or certificate in another jurisdiction can become certified in Virginia, please read § 54.1-1404 of the Board's statutes and 18 VAC 70-20-90 of the Board's regulations

**EXAM:** In September 1998, the Board for Geology began administering a national professional geologist certification examination developed by ASBOG. By administering this national exam, the Board approves certification to geologists that exhibit a breadth of knowledge in the fundamental and practical categories through a certification exam that is recognized by other states.

The next certification examination is scheduled for October 4, 2002. The Board must approve applications for certification through examination prior to this date.

## REMINDERS:

1. **Renewal** – Regulations require Virginia certified professional geologists to be responsible for renewing their certification, **even if** they do not receive the renewal notice (perhaps from change of address, exceeding forwarding period, or non-delivery) If renewal requirements are not completed by the end of the 30-day grace period, then the late payment fee or later the reinstatement fee is required. Regulations do not give the Board authority to override these requirements. Renewal is in August of the odd number years.
2. **Change of Address** - It is a Virginia certified professional geologist's responsibility to inform the Board of a change of address. As stated above, not receiving the renewal notice does not remove the responsibility of renewal from the regulant.

## BOARD MEMBERS:

Mr. Thomas E. Rice, Chair (certified geologist)  
Mr. Robert A. Baird, Ph. D. (certified geologist)  
Ms. Sarah L. Stinger (certified geologist)  
Mr. Thomas B. Holmes (citizen member)  
Mr. Rick Berquist, State Geologist (ex officio member)

**CONTACT THE BOARD:** For your convenience, you can contact the Board for Geology with any questions or comments through several means -

1. Phone: 804-367-8507
2. FAX: 804-367-2475
3. E-mail: [geology@dpor.state.va.us](mailto:geology@dpor.state.va.us)
4. Mail: Board for Geology 3600 West Broad Street, 5<sup>th</sup> floor, Richmond, VA 23230

### Upcoming Meetings of the Board for Geology

November 14, 2002

The Board holds its meetings at:

Department of Professional and Occupational Regulation  
Richmond, VA The Real Estate Board  
3600 West Broad Street  
Richmond, Virginia 23230

### STAFF MEMBERS

Louise Fontaine Ware..... Director  
Sandra Whitley Ryals..... Chief Deputy Director  
Karen W. O'Neal..... Deputy Director, Regulatory Programs  
David Dick..... Assistant Director  
Adrienne Mayo..... Office Manager

**BOARD WEBSITE:** Information concerning the Board for Geology is contained on the Department of Professional and Occupational Regulation's website which can be found at <http://www.state.va.us/dpor/indexie.html>. Once there, click on "Boards & Regulations" in the left column. A list of occupations will appear below. Scroll down and click on "Geology." The right column will now become the website for the Board for Geology.

Future newsletters will be posed on the Board's website. Please check the website periodically to ensure that you do not miss any important updates contained in future newsletters.

**REGULANT LOOKUP:** The Department of Professional and Occupational Regulation (DPOR) has a feature that all geologists may find useful. This feature is called "Regulant Lookup". "Regulant Lookup" allows anyone to check on the status of any person regulated by DPOR (including disciplinary actions). Only current, active records will appear.

To access "Regulant Lookup", go to the DPOR website at <http://www.state.va.us/dpor/indexie.html>.

In the left column, click on "Regulant Lookup" and choose one of the two options that appear below it. Then simply follow the instructions on either of the pages. Please note that you must have either the person's license number or the correctly spelled name in order to look up an individual regulant.